

MBIZANA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Audit Report

For the year ended 30 June 2019



AUDITOR-GENERAL
SOUTH AFRICA

Auditing to build public confidence

Report of the auditor-general to Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature and the council on the Mbizana Local Municipality

Report on the audit of the financial statements

Opinion

1. I have audited the financial statements of the Mbizana Local Municipality set out on pages, to, which comprise the statement of financial position as at 30 June 2019, the statement of financial performance, statement of changes in net assets, cash flow statement and the statement of comparison of budget information with actual information for the year then ended, as well as the notes to the financial statements, including a summary of significant accounting policies.
2. In my opinion, the financial statements present fairly, in all material respects, the financial position of the Mbizana Local Municipality as at 30 June 2019, and its financial performance and cash flows for the year then ended in accordance with the South African Standards of Generally Recognised Accounting Practise (SA Standards of GRAP) and the requirements of the Municipal Finance Management Act of South Africa, 2003 (Act no. 56 of 2003) (MFMA) and the Division of Revenue Act of South Africa, 2018 (Act no.1 of 2018) (Dora).

Basis for the opinion

3. I conducted my audit in accordance with the International Standards on Auditing (ISAs). My responsibilities under those standards are further described in the auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements section of my report.
4. I am independent of the municipality in accordance with sections 290 and 291 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *Code of ethics for professional accountants*, and parts 1 and 3 of the International Ethics Standards Board for Accountants' *International code of ethics for professional accountants (including International Independence Standards)* (IESBA codes), as well as the ethical requirements that are relevant to my audit in South Africa. I have fulfilled my other ethical responsibilities in accordance with these requirements and the IESBA codes.

Emphasis of matters

5. I draw attention to the matters below. My opinion is not modified in respect of these matters.

Irregular Expenditure

6. As disclosed in note 49 to the financial statements, irregular expenditure of R23,2 million (2018: R13,1 million), accumulated over a number of years, has not been recovered, written off or condoned. Irregular expenditure of R10,2 million (2018: R6,4 million) incurred during the current year is included in the amount disclosed.

Restatement of corresponding figures

7. As disclosed in note 43 to the financial statements, the corresponding figures for 30 June 2018 were restated as a result of an errors in the financial statements of the municipality at, and for the year ended, 30 June 2019.

Material impairments

8. As disclosed in note 10, 11 and 13 to the financial statements, impairments of R3,4 million (2018: R3,1 million) relating to receivables from non-exchange transactions and R11 million (2018: R9,7 million) relating to receivables from exchange transactions were incurred as a result of irrecoverable debtors.

Other matters

9. I draw attention to the matter below. My opinion is not modified in respect of this matter.

Unaudited disclosure notes

10. In terms of section 125(e), the municipality is required to disclose particulars on non-compliance with the MFMA in the financial statements. This disclosure requirement did not form part of the audit of financial statements and, accordingly, I do not express an opinion on it.

Unaudited supplementary information

11. The supplementary information set out on pages to does not form part of the annual performance report and is presented as additional information. I have not audited these schedules and, accordingly, do not report thereon.

Responsibilities of accounting officer for the financial statements

12. The accounting officer is responsible for the preparation and fair presentation of the financial statements in accordance with the SA Standards of GRAP and the requirements of the MFMA and Dora, and for such internal control as the accounting officer determines is necessary to enable the preparation of financial statements that are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error.
13. In preparing the financial statements, the accounting officer is responsible for assessing the municipality's ability to continue as a going concern, disclosing, as applicable, matters relating to going concern and using the going concern basis of accounting unless the appropriate governance structure either intends to liquidate the municipality or to cease operations, or has no realistic alternative but to do so.

Auditor-general's responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements

14. My objectives are to obtain reasonable assurance about whether the financial statements as a whole are free from material misstatement, whether due to fraud or error, and to issue an auditor's report that includes my opinion. Reasonable assurance is a high level of assurance, but is not a guarantee that an audit conducted in accordance with the ISAs will always detect a material misstatement when it exists. Misstatements can arise from fraud or error and are considered material if, individually or in aggregate, they could reasonably be expected to influence the economic decisions of users taken on the basis of these financial statements.

15. A further description of my responsibilities for the audit of the financial statements is included in the annexure to this auditor's report.

Report on the audit of the annual performance report

Introduction and scope

16. In accordance with the Public Audit Act of South Africa, 2004 (Act No. 25 of 2004) (PAA) and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the reported performance information against predetermined objectives for selected objective presented in the annual performance report. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.

17. My procedures address the reported performance information, which must be based on the approved performance planning documents of the municipality. I have not evaluated the completeness and appropriateness of the performance indicators included in the planning documents. My procedures also did not extend to any disclosures or assertions relating to planned performance strategies and information in respect of future periods that may be included as part of the reported performance information. Accordingly, my findings do not extend to these matters.

18. I evaluated the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information in accordance with the criteria developed from the performance management and reporting framework, as defined in the general notice, for the following selected objectives presented in the annual performance report of the municipality for the year ended 30 June 2019:

| Objectives | Pages in the annual performance report |
|--------------------------------------|---|
| Basic services: engineering services | x – x |

19. I performed procedures to determine whether the reported performance information was properly presented and whether performance was consistent with the approved performance planning documents. I performed further procedures to determine whether the indicators and related targets were measurable and relevant, and assessed the reliability of the reported performance information to determine whether it was valid, accurate and complete.

20. I did not identify any material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information for the selected objective.

Other matters

21. I draw attention to the matters below.

Achievement of planned targets

22. Refer to the annual performance report on page(s) x to x; for information on the achievement of planned targets for the year and explanations provided for the under- or overachievement of a number of targets.
23. I identified material misstatements in the annual performance report submitted for auditing. These material misstatements were on the reported performance information of Basic services: engineering services, I raised material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information. As management subsequently corrected the misstatements, I did not raise material findings on the usefulness and reliability of the reported performance information.

Report on audit of compliance with legislation

Introduction and scope

24. In accordance with the PAA and the general notice issued in terms thereof, I have a responsibility to report material findings on the compliance of the municipality with specific matters in key legislation. I performed procedures to identify findings but not to gather evidence to express assurance.
25. The material findings on compliance with specific matters in key legislations are as follows:

Annual financial statements

26. The financial statements submitted for auditing were not prepared in all material respects in accordance with the requirements of section 122(1) of the MFMA.
27. Material misstatements of non-current assets, expenditure and disclosure notes identified by the auditors in the submitted financial statements were subsequently corrected resulting in the financial statements receiving an unqualified audit opinion.

Procurement and contract management

28. All bid documentation for procurement of commodities designated for local content and production, did not stipulated the minimum threshold for local production and content as required by the 2017 preferential procurement regulation 8(2).
29. The performance of some of the contractors or providers was not monitored on a monthly basis, as required by section 116(2)(b) of the MFMA.
30. The contract performance and monitoring measures and methods were not sufficient to ensure effective contract management, as required by section 116(2)(c) of the MFMA.

Consequence management

31. Irregular expenditure incurred by the municipality in the previous financial year was not investigated to determine if any person is liable for the expenditure, as required by section 32(2) of the MFMA.

Other information

32. The accounting officer is responsible for the other information. The other information comprises the information included in the annual report. The other information does not include the financial statements, the auditor's report and those selected objective presented in the annual performance report that have been specifically reported in this auditor's report.
33. My opinion on the financial statements and findings on the reported performance information and compliance with legislation do not cover the other information and I do not express an audit opinion or any form of assurance conclusion thereon.
34. In connection with my audit, my responsibility is to read the other information and, in doing so, consider whether the other information is materially inconsistent with the financial statements and the selected development priority presented in the annual performance report, or my knowledge obtained in the audit, or otherwise appears to be materially misstated.
35. I did not receive the other information prior to the date of this auditor's report. When I do receive and read this information, if I conclude that there is a material misstatement therein, I am required to communicate the matter to those charged with governance and request that the other information be corrected. If the other information is not corrected, I may have to retract this auditor's report and re-issue an amended report as appropriate. However, if it is corrected this will not be necessary.

Internal control deficiencies

36. I considered internal control relevant to my audit of the financial statements, reported performance information and compliance with applicable legislation; however, my objective was not to express any form of assurance on it. The matters reported below are limited to the significant internal control deficiencies that resulted in the basis for unqualified opinion, the findings on the annual performance report and the findings on compliance with legislation included in this report.
 - Although the leadership structure of the municipality has improved from the prior year, it was still not adequate to ensure that all disciplines necessary to enable effective oversight that promotes efficiency and effectiveness in financial management and compliance with laws and regulations have been implemented. The slow progress in the audit intervention plan of the municipality is also a concern. This has resulted in the non-improvement in the implementation of the oversight responsibility with regard to internal control deficiencies identified during the year. Material non-compliance issues have been identified due to a lack of management oversight to the compliance of the applicable laws and regulations and policies by the municipality.
 - Material non-compliance issues have been identified due to a lack of management oversight regarding compliance with the applicable laws and regulations and policies by the municipality.

- The audit committee held regular meetings as required by the MFMA to address internal control deficiencies identified and quarterly reports. Their oversight effectiveness on ensuring improved control environment in financial management and compliance with laws and regulations still require improvement.

Auditor-General

East London
30 November 2019



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Annexure – Auditor-general’s responsibility for the audit

1. As part of an audit in accordance with the ISAs, I exercise professional judgement and maintain professional scepticism throughout my audit of the financial statements, and the procedures performed on reported performance information for selected objectives and on the municipality’s compliance with respect to the selected subject matters.

Financial statements

2. In addition to my responsibility for the audit of the financial statements as described in the auditor’s report, I also:
 - identify and assess the risks of material misstatement of the financial statements whether due to fraud or error, design and perform audit procedures responsive to those risks, and obtain audit evidence that is sufficient and appropriate to provide a basis for my opinion. The risk of not detecting a material misstatement resulting from fraud is higher than for one resulting from error, as fraud may involve collusion, forgery, intentional omissions, misrepresentations, or the override of internal control.
 - obtain an understanding of internal control relevant to the audit in order to design audit procedures that are appropriate in the circumstances, but not for the purpose of expressing an opinion on the effectiveness of the municipality’s internal control.
 - evaluate the appropriateness of accounting policies used and the reasonableness of accounting estimates and related disclosures made by the accounting officer.
 - conclude on the appropriateness of the accounting officer’s use of the going concerns basis of accounting in the preparation of the financial statements. I also conclude, based on the audit evidence obtained, whether a material uncertainty exists related to events or conditions that may cast significant doubt on the Mbizana Local Municipality’s ability to continue as a going concern. If I conclude that a material uncertainty exists, I am required to draw attention in my auditor’s report to the related disclosures in the financial statements about the material uncertainty or, if such disclosures are inadequate, to modify the opinion on the financial statements. My conclusions are based on the information available to me at the date of the auditor’s report. However, future events or conditions may cause a municipality to cease to continue as a going concern.
 - evaluate the overall presentation, structure and content of the financial statements, including the disclosures, and whether the financial statements represent the underlying transactions and events in a manner that achieves fair presentation.
 - obtain sufficient appropriate audit evidence regarding the financial information of the entities or business activities within the group to express an opinion on the consolidated financial statements. I am responsible for the direction, supervision and performance of the group audit. I remain solely responsible for my audit opinion.

Communication with those charged with governance

3. I communicate with the accounting officer regarding, among other matters, the planned scope and timing of the audit and significant audit findings, including any significant deficiencies in internal control that I identify during my audit.

4. I also confirm to the accounting officer that I have complied with relevant ethical requirements regarding independence, and communicate all relationships and other matters that may reasonably be thought to have a bearing on my independence and here applicable, related safeguards.